

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 RSR-01 /117 W
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R 031528 Z APR 73

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4101

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 345

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, JO, IS.

SUBJ: JEWISH PURCHASE OF WEST BANK LAND

REF: TEL AVIV 2534

1. POSSIBILITY THAT JEWISH ISRAELIS WILL BE PERMITTED TO PURCHASE LAND ON WEST BANK HAS NOT ESCAPED NOTICE OF LOCAL PALESTINIANS. HEAD OF MOSLEM RELIGIOUS COUNCIL (SHEIKH HILMI MUHTASIB) REMARKED DURING APRIL 2 CALL ON CONGEN THAT WEST BANKERS ARE INTENSELY CONCERNED WITH, AND OPPOSED TO, JEWISH PURCHASE OF WEST BANK LAND. MUHTASIB ALLOWED, HOWEVER, THAT IF MOVE APPROVED BY GOI, THERE WOULD BE ARABS WHO WOULD SELL THEIR LAND. HE SUGGESTED THAT MANY PALESTINIANS WOULD SEE THIS INITIATIVE AS FURTHER INDICATION THAT ISRAELIS WOULD NOT WITHDRAW FROM WEST BANK, AND MANY WOULD SELL LAND " BEFORE IT IS CONFISCATED." MUHTASIB ALSO CITED ARCHAIC SYSTEM OF LAND REGISTRATION, IN WHICH LAND BELONGING TO TRIBE OR CLAN IS FREQUENTLY REGISTERED IN NAME OF SINGLE INDIVIDUAL, AS MAKING IT EASIER FOR ISRAELIS TO ENTICE WEST BANKERS TO SELL, I. E. PERSON WITH TITLE CAN SELL LAND SURREPTITIOUSLY WITHOUT CONSENT OF OTHER OWNERS.

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2. WE ARE INFORMED BY YAACOV TSUR, HEAD OF JEWISH NATIONAL FUND, THAT JNF (AS COMPONENT OF ISRAEL LANDS AUTHORITY) HAS PURCHASED SOME 20,000 DUNUMS OF LAND (EQUOR HOTELS FURTHER OUT ARE SLIGHTLY CHEAPER.

3. RE OFFICE SPACE FOR AMERICAN DEL, AVAILABILITY DEPENDENT ON EXTENT OTHER EMBASSY FACILITIES USED FOR BILATERALS. IF CONFERENCE ROOM NOT UTILIZED FOR US DEL CONFERENCES, IT COULD BE CONVERTED TO OFFICE SPACE OR COMBINATION OF BOTH. FISHERIES ATTACHE OFFICE ON SECOND FLOOR WOULD, OF COURSE, ALSO BE AVAILABLE.

4. LOCAL SECRETARY, CLEARED FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE, WILL BE AVAILABLE FULL TIME TO ASSIST. NO RPT NO AMERICAN SECRETARY AVAILABLE. WE ASSUME BOTH DELEGATIONS WILL SUPPLY OWN INTERPRETER AND TRANSLATION SERVICES.

5. ON HOTEL ROOM SPACE, EMBASSY HAS RESERVED EIGHT SINGLES FOR MAY 21- JUNE 3; 15 SINGLES AND 5 DOUBLES FOR JUNE 3-16; AND 12 SINGLES AND 4 DOUBLES FOR JUNE 17-30, ALL AT HOTEL EUROPA. HOTEL SPACE IS VERY RPT VERY CRITICAL DURING THIS PERIOD AND WE URGENTLY REQUEST DEPARTMENT VERIFICATION OF ROOM NEEDS AND NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ANY LATE CANCELLATIONS MAY OBLIGATE PAYMENT OF ROOM CHARGES; THEREFORE WE REQUEST YOU ALSO KEEP US ADVISED ON ANY CHANGES IN REQUIREMENTS.

6. LOCAL TRANSPORTATION, INCLUDING TAXIS, IS EXCELLENT AND NO PROBLEMS LIKELY. EMBASSY MOTOR POOL FACILITIES EXTREMELY LIMITED; THEREFORE, IF DELEGATION BELIEVES IT HAS ONGOING NEED FOR AUTO TRANSPORTATION (WHICH MAY BE DEPENDENT ON DECISION ON CONFERENCE SITE), WE SUGGEST AUTO RENTALS BE CONSIDERED.

7. FUNDS SHOULD BE ALLOCATED FOR ANH OVERTIME WHICH MAY BE ENVISIONED FOR SECRETARIAL AND OTHER SERVICES .

8. EMBOFF INFORMALLY MENTIONED POSSIBLE COPENHAGEN VENUE FOR BILATERALS TO SOVIET EMBASSY WHICH HAS NO RPT NO INFORMATION REGARDING IT. WE DID NOT PURSUE QUESTION FURTHER, BUT BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF SOVIETS ENCOURAGED TO INSTRUCT THEIR COPENHAGEN EMBASSY TO EXPLORE FACILITIES QUESTION JOINTLY WITH US . IN THIS REGARD, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT ADVICE ON ACCEPTABILITY SOVIET EMBASSY FACILITIES SHOULD THEY BE OFFERED.

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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